

DANIEL IN THE LIONS' DEN

Old Testament Lesson #148

When Darius (da-RI-us) was made king of Babylon, the kingdom was divided into three major sections. Administrators were appointed for each, and Daniel was one of them. The king found Daniel so trustworthy that he planned to put Daniel in charge of the whole kingdom.

The other administrators became jealous and devised a plan to get rid of Daniel. They realized that he was faithful to his God, so they approached the king with an idea for a new law. No one was to pray to any god or man other than King Darius for the next 30 days. Anyone who broke the law would be thrown into the lions' den.

The king was flattered when he was told that all the royal administrators and other rulers approved the idea. He signed it into law, not realizing the evil intent behind it.

When Daniel learned about the new law, he continued to pray as he always had. The other administrators observed him praying and ran to tell the king.

Then the king realized what had happened. He had been tricked into signing a law, but couldn't change it because of the nation's laws. As Daniel was thrown into the lions' den, the sad king said to him, "May your God, whom you serve continually, rescue you!"

The king was awake all night, deeply concerned for Daniel. In the morning, he hurried to the lions' den to see if Daniel's God had saved him. Daniel answered that an angel had shut the lions' mouths because Daniel was innocent before God and the king.

The king ordered the other administrators and their families thrown to the lions. His new law commanded people to fear and revere Daniel's God.

POINTS TO CONSIDER:

- The record states that after Daniel was taken from the den, the people who were thrown to the lions had their bones crushed before they reached the floor of the den, indicating that Daniel's deliverance was truly miraculous. It wasn't just that the lions weren't hungry.

Daniel in the Lions' Den

- I. Daniel was an administrator for King Darius.
 - A. He was so trustworthy that the king planned to give Daniel the entire kingdom.
 - B. The other administrators were jealous of Daniel and planned to kill him.
- II. Daniel's enemies approached the king.
 - A. They suggested that everyone should pray to King Darius – and no one else – for 30 days.
 - B. Anyone who broke the law would be thrown into the lions' den.
 - C. They said all the administrators approved this new law, but that was a lie.
- III. Daniel continued to pray to the LORD.
 - A. The administrators saw him praying and told the king.
 - B. The king realized he had been tricked, but he couldn't change the law.
 - C. He had Daniel thrown into the lions' den and said he hoped his God would save him.
- IV. The king visited the lions' den the next day.
 - A. Daniel had been saved by an angel who had shut the lions' mouths.
 - B. Daniel was saved because he was innocent before God and the king.
 - C. The king ordered the administrators to be thrown to the lions.

ANSWER KEY:

Daniel, King, Darius, king, plan, worship, king, lions', den, king, law, Daniel, pray, Darius, Daniel, law, king, law, sad, Daniel, lions', den, king, serve, rescue, King, Darius, night, morning, lions', den, see, Daniel, King, Darius, Daniel, alive, lions, angel, Daniel